

### Tax Bite on Americans Doubles During Years From 1950 to 1960

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT  
With income-tax-paying time just around the corner it is interesting, to note the size of the tax bite which has eaten into the American's pocketbook in the past 10 years.

Americans, we are told by the Tax Foundation, paid twice as much in taxes in 1960 as they did in 1950 — and they will pay about \$8 billion more this year.

The Foundation, which published a book about it, "Facts and Figures on Government Finance," notes that Americans were relieved of \$127 billion in taxes of all kinds in 1960, slightly more than double the revenue collected in 1950. This is an amount equal to approximately 30 per cent of the gross national product last year. Uncle Sam took about 73 per

cent of the total.  
IN ADDITION, government agencies spent \$26 billion of borrowed money and our national, state, and local government debt rose \$75 trillion to \$356 trillion!

More than one-half of Federal spending in 1959 and one-third of all this tax and bond spending in the entire country went for defense, foreign aid and international relations, the book reports.

ROMAN HOLIDAY — Modern Americans are beginning to do what the old-time Romans did as far as bathing is concerned, says the Tile Council of America. They're taking their baths in sunken tubs.

Studies made by the trade association for manufacturers of more than 80 per cent of the ceramic tile made in the United States indicate a definite trend away from the standard tub and toward a new version of the old step-down plunge. This is particularly true in the West and in Florida.

DURING THE past year, the Tile Council reports, more than 1000 homes built in the Western states alone featured sunken tubs. One California builder is putting not one but two sunken baths in each home, and a Florida builder is planning to offer them as an optional feature in homes under \$15,000. The sunken tub may cost as little as \$75 to \$100 more than a standard tub.

Another reason for the sunken tub's new popularity is that, according to the Tile Council, "with a versatile surfacing like ceramic tile, a homeowner can have any shape or size of tub he wants, in a practically limitless array of colors or patterns."

SHELL-TO-DWELL — Fastest-growing segment of the housing market is the low-cost home that can be bought in various stages of completion ranging from the basic "shell" to a house that's ready to move into.

That's the word from the Institute for Essential Housing, Inc. — an organization formed by nationally known suppliers of housing materials and equipment in cooperation with prominent research associations and leading architects and marketing economists.

IEH has designed a complete line of low-cost homes and is building a nation-wide organization of local representatives, principally established contractors and lumber dealers, who will erect the houses under the Institute's supervision.

THE HOMES are usually built on the owner's lot, which can serve as the downpayment. Financing is arranged by IEH; the buyer pays monthly installments in much the same way as if he were buying an automobile "on time." Terms range from 5 to 10 years.

The man who is handy with tools can have the basic outer shell erected by professionals and finish the interior himself or he may buy a home with a partially finished interior; in either case IEH supplies a complete package of equipment for heating, plumbing and electricity. Those unskilled in the mechanical arts may purchase homes ready to live in.

THINGS TO COME — A handy roller ruler now on the market consists of a disc and meter attached to a telescopic steel rod which extends to 36 inches. As the disc moves over the surface of floors, wall, etc., it motivates the meter which records in feet the distance measured. . . . Also out is a handy, compact calculator weighing 12 ounces which has a capacity of 11 digits on the keyboard, eight digits on the indicator dial and 15 digits on the answer dial.

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